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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear David

RE: Use of Natural England Solent Nutrients Guidance (v5 June 2020)

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Your authority recently contacted Natural England to clarify whether certain aspects of Natural England's 2020 Solent Nutrients guidance are still relevant and can still be referred to, following the national rollout of updated guidance and catchment calculators earlier this year. It is for Havant Borough Council as competent authority to be satisfied with the information provided to support nutrient budget calculations and nutrient mitigation proposals within an appropriate assessment that may enable a conclusion to be made of no adverse effects on site integrity, in relation to the Solent coastal Habitats sites. Please see below for clarification on what aspects of both sets of guidance Natural England consider can be relied upon when assessing nutrient impacts:

Natural England updated guidance and calculators (2022)

- Nutrient budgets and mitigation proposals should be developed in line with all aspects of this guidance. The relevant catchment calculator (in the case for development within the borough of Havant, the Solent coastal Habitats sites) should be utilised unless a bespoke approach is employed; bespoke approaches should be robustly evidenced and justified, and be suitably precautionary.

Natural England Solent Nutrients Guidance (v5 June 2020)

- Paragraph 4.63 outlines a recommendation that the nutrient leaching rate for open space/green infrastructure applies to areas of designated open space of around 0.5 hectares and above. Such areas are likely to need appropriate conditions or other legal measures to ensure the land will not change to alternative uses that affect nutrient inputs in the long term, and that long term management will be necessary to ensure the provision of dog bins and that these are regularly emptied. This advice still applies, noting that the Greenspace nutrient leaching level for nitrogen in the new guidance is 3kgTN/ha/yr, and for phosphorus is 0.02 kgTP/ha/ya.
- The general principles with regard to mitigation options in Section 5 remain relevant, however please note the specific advice for wetlands has now been superseded with the [Wetland Framework](#), built by The Rivers Trust and the Constructed Wetland Association.
- The spatial principles in relation to suitable location of mitigation within Section 5 still apply, as the evidence base for these has not changed.

If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter please do not hesitate to contact Natural England.

Yours sincerely,

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Natural England
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